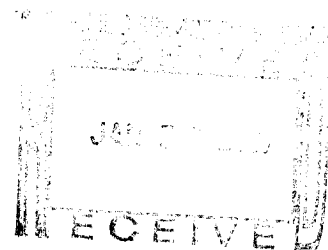


184168

COPY
Posted: D. Duke
Dept: SA - OIS
Date: 1-31-07

928 Falls Road
Rock Hill, SC 29730
January 28, 2007



Charles L. A. Terrini
Chief Clerk/Administrator
South Carolina Public Service Commission
101 Executive Center Drive
Columbia, SC 29211

Dear Mr. Terrini,

It has come to my attention that South Carolina does not currently allow net metering, as provided for by the Public Utility Regulatory Policy Act. We are one of the few states that does not allow power generated by qualified customers to be pumped back into the electric grid. The Public Service Commission has the opportunity to remedy this situation. The importance of allowing net metering cannot be overstated.

Customers who choose to install solar cells or wind turbines on their properties currently go to great expense to do this, yet don't have an easy, economical or environmentally safe way to store the electricity generated. Batteries are heavy, inefficient, and need to be disposed of when used. Safe disposal of batteries is a problem. Electrical systems that run on batteries are less than satisfactory compared to regular appliances.

Allowing net metering is a situation where everyone wins. The utilities don't have to pay to install the equipment to generate electricity from these smaller sites. They typically pay wholesale rates to the customer feeding electricity into the grid, so they don't lose money on it. The customer generating the electricity now has an efficient, economical way to "store" the excess power generated. These small generators would typically be generating peak power at times when the sun is the strongest. In the summer, that means it would shift a little of the load caused by air conditioning, thereby helping everyone.

Diversifying power sources is also a good idea, especially in this age of terrorist threats. If you give many people an easy way to put power into the grid, it is more likely that those with concerns for our security and concerns for the environment would buy their own solar or wind generating equipment. If enough people do this, you would be able to rely less on coal fired plants that contribute to global warming.

Please consider adopting regulations that require electric utilities to provide net metering to qualifying customers.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "MaryRose Randall".

MaryRose Randall